

A religious painting of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a red robe over a white tunic. He is standing in front of a dark wooden door set in a stone wall. He is knocking on the door with his right hand, while his left hand holds a scroll. A small, multi-paned window is visible in the door above his hand. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window and possibly from the left, casting shadows on the wall and door.

TRANSFORM

Jesus
is Knocking

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Jesus is Knocking

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. Rev 3:20 (KJV)

The Sovereign Lord guides the steps of his faithful ones amidst the rebellious with His Word. And at every occasion he sends his word specifically to them thus enabling them to walk along the right path without drifting. Every church, every group, association, family and individual has a specific message from God, therefore, when they consciously open up the doors of their hearts.

The message contained in the passage quoted was written by Elder John (A church elder and missionary driven away for his radical messages). Haven been banished to the Island of Patmos, God gave him a message to the church in Laodicea. The message was that Jesus is at the door; knocking.

The church in Laodicea was located in the busy town of Laodicea which can be compared to the Nigerian city of Onitsha. A good number of the members of that church were traders and other business men some of which specialise in the sale of ointments which is used for the eyes. Despite being so busy, God still had a message for them.

Laodicea had a slimy pool popularly known as 'miracle water'. The temperature of the water is neither high nor low and people come from all walks of life to bathe in the water. The Laodicean church was located beside this water. This water also made Laodicea popular. What does this tells us? God is interested in the activities that goes on around us.

God was certainly not happy with the people of Laodicea,
'Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: Rev 3:17 (KJV)

God was telling them that although they had money, before God they were poor; although they had clothes, they were naked; although they sold ointments meant for the eyes, they were blind.

What bothers God about this people?

1. They had become too busy for God.

The church in Laodicea was carried away by activities and therefore, they had less time for God. To give time for God also include coming into the church even when there is no service or prayer session. Having time for God does not necessarily mean being like Martha or carrying out routine activities prescribed by our faith; it simply means allowing the spirit to take the lead. It is to allow God's word to be shut up within us as in Jeremiah 3:3. To find time for God involves loving him and seeking his face diligently. Psalms 1 records that we are blessed and happy when we spend night and day meditating on God's word.

Unfortunately for the church in Laodicea just like many of us nowadays, they had lost their relationship with God without even knowing it. They have been carried away by the politics, activities and events in Laodicea without having the smallest interest in the kingdom of God. Hence, God told them they were poor and empty although they appeared rich and full.

It is possible for one to have driven Jesus out without knowing; a family can unknowingly refuse to hear whatever Jesus has to say. Our heartfelt prayer should be: O Lord, come into my heart.

2. Domination by External Influence

When the church in Laodicea was experiencing lukewarmness, Emperor Domicilia was the ruler. He was a beast who terrorized the church and demanded worship for himself. As a result of this, Christians could not gather in public. There is a need to ask God to reveal the external powers working within our locality. One's house could be opened to God while the city gate is still locked.

If external demonic powers, principalities and dominions are struggling for lordship over a local abode, the Christians in that locality might be affected. If the rulers over you are aligned to Satan, then such locality is cursed. However, in Genesis 22, God promised Abraham that he will give the gate of his enemies to his (Abraham's) children.



You may be so busy and not realise that you are being manipulated. You might start a business and suddenly discover that the business has taken all of your time and you don't even have any moment for God. An example is the church in Laodicea that got engrossed in the local-culture that they lost the kingdom-culture. All these bothered God and he had to send a message to them.

Some of us own houses but spiritually, we've been locked outside. We may think we are under the shade but in reality, we are *shelterless*. Because of the increase in demonic activities especially in Nigeria, people covet wealth and through diabolical means steal the wealth of others. That is why it is possible for one to be labouring, occupying a position and cannot see the fruit. A father who has lost his authority or a businessman who no longer records profits is under external influence

Our Authority in God

When you pray for the protection of God over your life, also pray that the glory of God overshadow your entire vicinity, locality and nationality. This is a good reason why we ought to develop and nurture small Christian gatherings all over. Everyone that is born of God is born and created to take authority. Jesus knew what he was doing when he gave the keys to Peter. The moment you have the key, it means you have the license to prosper.

You may be the householder and your door is swinging. You may be at home as a father and an evil spirit is oppressing your child. This is very wrong; because the moment you take your marital vows as a husband and consequently as a father, all you need to exert authority as a father is released unto you.

Causes of Locked Doors

You may commit a mortal sin that takes the presence of God away from your life. Saint Padre Pew would stand afar from the house of some people and ask them to go for confession (being a stigmatist who carries the wound of Jesus), he feels pains just as Jesus feels it anytime we sin.



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As an individual, you must be able to perceive when Jesus is absent; you must be able to identify the darkness when Jesus who is the light is absent. Jesus feels more comfortable in certain homes, gatherings and churches compared to some others.

There are times when over 50% of the entire congregation who are communant refuse to take the Holy Communion because their conscience condemns them. While it is good for us to be humble enough to identify our sins, it is not ideal. Also note that you may be enjoying the blessings and glory of God only based on the intercession of others

Conclusion

God has led me to the consciousness of closed and opened doors. Therefore, I keep praying that God keeps me awake that I may be sensitive enough to see what is coming into the vineyard. No matter how attractive the sheep clothing is, God will help me to identify the hyenas by his grace and mercies. So our desire should be that God open the door. We need God to open every closed doors in our hearts and Jesus come in. When Jesus comes in, his first desire is to take charge of every heart. When Jesus takes charge of a heart, no one can tamper with it. Deception cannot take place where there is truth and freedom; that was why the early church did not lack anything – Jesus was the Lord and master of the house.

Action Point

Any house that has Jesus as the master cannot lack anything.
When the Lord Jesus comes into a house, the rule of the game changes.
God is interested in the activities that goes on around us.